

## COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes (Approved)  
November 4, 2014

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 7:30 pm at the Concord Municipal Light Plant meeting room. Present were Committee members Jill Appel (co-chair), Sue Felshin, Gilda Gussin, Jane Hotchkiss (co-Chair), Mark Myles and Alan Whitney (clerk); committee members Gordon Brockway and Ruthie Bennett were absent. Also present for the meeting were Elise Woodward (Board of Selectman CSEC liaison), Pamela Cady (newly appointed Concord/Carlisle Town Energy Manager), Jan Aceti (CMLP Energy Conservation Coordinator), and Concord resident William Lehr.

### **Meeting minutes**

On a motion duly made and seconded, minutes of the October 7, 2014 CSEC meeting were approved as amended.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next CSEC monthly meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2014; subsequent CSEC meetings will be scheduled, if possible, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Harvey Wheeler Center.

### **Welcome to new Concord/Carlisle Energy Manager**

Pamela Cady was welcomed as the new joint Concord/Carlisle Energy Manager. Ms. Cady explained that her Concord priorities are:

1. Connections to public schools, primarily through Peter Nichol (CCHS faculty) and senior Ashley Yousefi (CCHS senior).
2. Community education, primarily through the Greening Your Heat program and school-based initiatives (including all grade levels). Pamela indicated that she had recently met with a K-5 curriculum specialist to discuss possible energy-related initiatives targeted at these younger students. Ms. Gussin indicated that she is interested in programs in our schools and would like to work with Ms. Cady in this area.
3. Working with CSEC and town officials to extend education and implementation of sustainability principles.

Ms. Cady plans to meet with Concord Superintendent of Schools Diana Rigby to explore how sustainable-energy subjects might be integrated into the school curricula.

Additional issues on Ms. Cady's plate are the replacement boiler at Sanborn Middle School, as well as the town vehicle policy (part of Green Communities requirement).

Ms. Woodward suggested that Ms. Cady also may be able to identify and exploit synergies between energy-related efforts in Concord and Carlisle.

### **Greening Your Heat Program**

Ms. Aceti summarized the current status of the GYH Program Manager RFP:

- Only one proposal (from Sagewell, Inc) was received.
- The RFP evaluation committee (Ms. Hotchkiss, Ms. Cady, Ms. Aceti and Town Finance Manager John Harris) was impressed with the proposal and good record of Sagewell and authorized the Town to move ahead to contract negotiations.
- Sagewell has proposed some changes to the draft contract, including some additional funding and some possible reduction in scope.

A wide-ranging discussion followed with comments, suggestions and questions relating to the GYH contract, which will be taken into due consideration in the negotiations with Sagewell. Some points of the discussion:

- Based on Sagewell's experience with a somewhat similar program in Belmont, ~30% of homeowner's who received a recommendation to weatherize (after an energy audit) actually followed through to have weatherization work done [homeowner is offered \$299 co-pay for up to \$1500 of weatherization work; homeowner pays all expenses beyond that]. If the Belmont experience is applicable to Concord, approximately 450 weatherization recommendations will need to be made in order to reach the goal of 150 installed weatherization projects.
- In contrast, MassSave has a weatherization success rate of about 25%.
- How accurate can weatherization price estimates be on the basis of only infra-red imaging and short energy audit?
- Much interest and a number of questions about how Sagewell intends to market GYH.
- Will post-weatherization infra-red evaluations be made to assess success of weatherization installation?
- Comment: Providing too much information to people in an energy audit is overwhelming and not worth doing.
- Should Sagewell representative be asked to be present (in person or remotely) at all CSEC meetings? Answer after discussion: Yes, if possible.
- Ms. Aceti is working on a revised scope-of-work, will send draft to CSEC members. All CSEC members are asked to read revised draft and send comments/suggestions to Ms. Aceti.

### **GYH Marketing**

Ms. Gussin proposed marketing the GYH program through affinity groups as an effective tool. Marketing materials, including exhibits, on-line visibility, articles, FAQs, fun events, Facebook ideas, training and coaching leaders, etc. are all suggested; these would all be customized as needed to the GYH target audience and goals. Ms. Gussin stated that CSEC will put together a package of materials for the GYH program to be disseminated through contacts at affinity groups. Need to target churches, neighborhoods and other groups. Also need to coordinate with Peter Nichol (Earth Science/Environmental Science CCHS teacher) and Ashley Yousefi (student) to develop a support program at CCHS.

Ms. Appel asked the GYH Marketing Subcommittee (Gilda, Sue and Jane) to create a draft proposal, if possible, to present at the next CSEC meeting.

### **Green Communities**

Mr. Brockway, Ms. Hotchkiss and Ms. Appel met with the Town Manager to discuss the status of the Green Communities Project, under which municipal energy costs are targeted to be reduced by 20% by 2016. Ms. Cady, as the new Energy Manager, will be a major participant in the GC project. Of note:

- Town is examining its vehicle fleet and policies, with significant improvements planned to be implemented.
- School buildings are being looked at for further savings (but school buildings do not contribute to peak usage rate in summer).
- CSEC was encouraged to write to BoS with opinion as to what issues are most important.
- Larger-scale solar PV has been looked at for the schools, but appears to be too expensive

### **CMLP News**

CMLP expects is currently investigating a new rate structure (likely tiered rates) to be put in place in early 2015. CSEC liaison to CMLP, Ms. Hotchkiss, will keep tabs on CMLP progress and report back to CSEC.

### **Tuft's Heat Pump Project**

Mr. Brockway, along with Ms. Appel and Mr. Whitney, are working with Prof. Robert Hannemann at Tufts University to develop a one-semester offering for seniors and/or new graduate students to study detailed questions about performance, suitability, and carbon footprint of heat pumps relative to other alternatives. Good progress has been made to date with the first offering to students expected to be made in the semester starting January 2015. Details are still being worked out. Ideally, this is a first step in a broader program. It appears that, at least for the time being, Tufts will not require any funding from CSEC.

Mr. Brockway will give a more complete report at the December CSEC meeting.

### **Sustainability Regulations**

Ms. Appel suggested collaboration between CSEC and the Planning Board to develop a set of sustainability regulations, acknowledging that this represents a substantial project. Sue Felshin, Mark Myles and Ruthie Bennett were suggested as possible participants in this process.

### **Other Quick Notes**

Ms. Aceti reported that both town libraries are being looked at for potential upgrades to reduce heating costs. The town does not own the buildings but pays the staff and utility bills.

Ms. Aceti reported that the Public Works lighting upgrade has been completed and employees are delighted with the results.

Ms. Felshin recently attended another planning meeting for Junction Village in W. Concord. She stated that CSEC needs to stay on top of on-going planning and engage early in order to have the most influence. Ms. Felshin plans to write a memo to the Board of Selectmen with performance criteria for the Junction Village project. CSEC will review the proposed memo at its December meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Whitney, clerk